increase, which are now showing a declining trend from the last one month. The retail price situation at Delhi over the different periods in the last four years is indicated below:

Commodity	Current Price 21.04.2008	Retail Prices (Rs./Kg.)						
		1 month back 21.03.08	3 months back 21.01.08	6 months back 21.10.07	1 year back 20.04.07	2 years back 21.04.06	3 years back 21.04.05	4 years back 21.04.04
Rice	18.00	18.00	17.00	15.00	15.00	13.00	13.00	12.00
Wheat	13.00	13.00	12.00	12.00	11.50	10.00	8.00	8.50
Atta	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	13.00	11.00	9.00	9.25
Gram dal	37.00	38.00	35.00	34.00	33.00	28.00	23.00	22.00
Tur dal	42.00	42.00	42.00	40.00	39.00	33.50	30.00	29.00
Sugar	18.00	17.50	17.00	16.00	17.00	21.50	19.00	16.00
Groundnut oil*	121.00	121.00	121.00	119.00	99.00	85.00	81.00	87.00
Mustard Oil*	73.00	82.00	68.00	62.00	56.00	49.00	51.00	54.00
Vanaspati	73.00	79.00	65.00	60.00	56.00	48.00	51.00	55.00
Tea (Loose)	107.00	108.00	107.00	106.00	107.00	104.00	99.00	104.00
Milk @	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	15.00	15.00
Potato	8.00	8.50	8.00	15.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.00
Onion	9.00	9.00	10.00	22.00	11.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
Salt (Packed)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	7.00

*Refined oil, @ per litre

(c) and (d) Government is aware of increase in prices of essential commodities and has already taken steps to check the increase in prices by taking effective measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of rice, wheat pulses and edible oils through imports at zero/ reduced rates of duty and ban on exports. Government has protected vulnerable sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 242 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 316 lakh tonnes in 2006-07. During the period April-November, 2007, 242.96 lakh tonnes wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 1.7.2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.

(e) Does not arise.

Plan for food security

3423. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of strategy evolved/planning drawn by Government for food security by e.g., strengthening buffer stock of wheat and rice, augmenting yields per acre etc., in view of the global forecast about shortage of food in the near future;

(b) whether Government has been seized of the latest forecast about world rice production in 2008 made by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) indicating an increase of estimated 1.8 per cent in production;

(c) if so, whether Government has reviewed the prospect of the same in India *vis-a-vis* the ground realities;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government has been working on two major policy planks to ensure food security in the country. The first policy plank is to boost agricultural production and productivity in the country by ensuring remunerative prices to farmers and supporting agricultural development programmes. The second policy plank being followed is to insulate vulnerable sections of society especially Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families against shortfalls in availability of foodgrains and to keep market prices of foodgrains under check.

Under these policies, the Government has taken a number of measures such as launching of National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna to increase production and productivity of cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits and vegetable crops during the 11th Plan period. The Government has been implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and a number of welfare schemes under which allocations of foodgrains at highly subsidized prices are being made, particularly for BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families and other vulnerable sections.

The increased production and productivity of food and other crops are expected to help augment buffer stocks of wheat and rice in the Central Pool.

(b) to (d) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UNO in its first forecast for the year 2008 has indicated an increase in the world production of rice by about 1.8%. As per FAO's publication No. 2, April, 2008 on crop prospects and food situation, India is not having shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies and forecast for total cereal production in 2008 is of 251.7 million tons.

(e) Question does not arise.

Production of edible oils

3424. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of various types of edible oils in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils have gone up by 30 per cent in the last one year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is importing 5 million tonnes of edible oils to meet the shortage; and